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Is Jesse Helms controlling the Senate?

Washington lobbyists charge that Helms' influence has grown beyond reason: "If Jesse Helms proposed that we repeal the First Amendment, we would have 80 senators voting with him."

By Jacob Smith Yang

WASHINGTON—Most observers, conservative or progressive, agree that right-wing Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) is a demagogue. Those who worked on the Harvey Gantt campaign against Helms in his 1990 recent re-election bid, for instance, called Helms "the king of spin control," because he was able to equate in voters' minds the federal civil rights bill with "racial quotas," and Harvey Gantt's pro-choice position with gender-selection for children.

Helms' tactics in achieving Senate approval of reactionary anti-gay and anti-PWA measures are viewed by lobbyists and health officials alike as relying on public fear, bigotry and ignorance. But many question how a man characterized as an "irrational, mean-spirited right-winger" can be so successful in garnering support for his reactionary amendments in a U.S. Senate controlled by Democrats.

"I really believe that if Jesse Helms proposed that we repeal the First Amendment, we would have 80 senators voting with him," said Tim McFeeley, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund. "What is really scary is that so many senators go along with him," he told GCN.

During the past several months, Helms has orchestrated Senate approval of at least three measures, each of which had failed only a year before by wide margins. His most recent victory came Sept. 20, when the Senate voted 68-28 to support an amendment prohibiting the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) from funding artwork or performances that depict or describe, "in a patently offensive way, sexual or excretory functions or organs."

The day before, the Senate voted 66-34 to maintain a Helms amendment that would cancel funding for two sex studies of teenagers designed to assist with the development of AIDS education programs, arguing that some questions promoted gay and lesbian sex.


Similarly, in July, Helms convinced senators to ignore testimony from public health advisors and overwhelmingly approve restrictive amendments on HIV testing; they voted 81-18 to jail health workers who tested HIV positive, and 55-44 to mandate HIV testing for all hospital patients.

Many fear Helms to be the greatest threat to civil liberties on Capitol Hill. Observers in Washington and North Carolina attribute Helms' power to his political scare tactics, Senate seniority and ability to manipulate complex Senate procedures. Ultimately, lobbyists say, it is the fear, ignorance and bigotry he has whipped up to gather public support that is the foundation for his political power within the supposedly enlightened Senate.

Anti-art = Anti-gay

Urvashi Vaid, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, told GCN that Helms' campaign to censor the arts gained momentum with his introduction of amendments restricting NEA funding in 1988. "Since then, with every appropriations and authorization cycle [in the Senate] we have seen the erosion and encroachment of art."

According to Gregory King of the HRCF, Helms' attacks on the NEA are roundabout ways of pressing his well-known attacks on the gay and lesbian



'This life is quite enough'

THE QUENTIN CRISP INTERVIEW

By Sterling Stowell

Quentin Crisp, 82-year-old author and self-described "effeminate homosexual," was in Boston on August 18. He came to town in order to introduce *Resident Allen*, the new documentary film about his life in New York, which was shown as part of the 7th Annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival at the Institute of Contemporary Art. When asked if I would like to interview Quentin and review the film for GCN, I was both interested and anxious. Although I had spoken to Quentin before (he really is, as he often has said, listed in the New York phone book), and also met him a few times (at author signings, and when he was doing his one-man show here in Boston several years ago), this would be the first time I would be able to sit down and talk with him at length. After contemplating the irony of Quentin Crisp's appearing at an Institute of contemporary art, I quickly settled down to two more pressing issues: What should I ask and what should I wear? After deciding on the former (the usual, but remember to bring the tape recorder), and settling on the latter (the usual, but remember to wear the white gloves), I was ready.

I was introduced to Quentin as he sat waiting to be interviewed, his trademark scarf, makeup and lavender tinted hair intact. I watched him introduce both showings of *Resident Allen* and do a question-and-answer session with an enthusiastic audience after the first showing. And, due to the generosity of George Mansour, director of the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, I was treated to a lovely dinner out with Quentin, George and several other members of the press and the ICA staff. Throughout the evening Quentin's energy never waned, and he was intelligent and entertaining. Although opinions of Quentin in the lesbian and gay community have ranged from dismissing him as a period piece to placing him on a pedestal, I found him to be living very much in the present, with no other agenda than the accurate presentation of himself. He provided a very human conversation that was both interesting and inspiring.

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AIDS Commission decries Bush inaction

WASHINGTON—The National Commission on AIDS sharply criticized Pres. Bush and Congress for their lack of leadership in the face of the AIDS pandemic, in its first comprehensive report released Sept. 25. The 165-page report, atypically strong in tone, called for an end to present "governmental inertia," public ignorance and fear in dealing with the 10-year-old crisis.

The report, titled "America Living With AIDS: Transforming Anger, Fear and Indifference into Action," called for sweeping changes in current AIDS/HIV policy—including the radical call for a comprehensive national health care plan for all citizens; a "comprehensive national HIV plan," including a cabinet-level leader; an end to laws prohibiting the distribution of clean hypodermic needles; and the dissemination of culturally-appropriate and explicit safe-sex literature.

The report stated, "In the past decade, the White House has rarely broken its silence on the topic of AIDS. Congress ... has often failed to provide adequate funding for AIDS programs." Larry Kessler, a member of the commission and the director of AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, predicted that the current commission will not be re-appointed next year because of its criticism of the president. The bipartisan commission was appointed jointly by Congress and the president two years ago.

Since a presidentially appointed seat was vacated this month by the death of Belinda Mason, the only PWA on the panel, Bush is likely to seize the opportunity to appoint an HIV-negative, conservative "demagogue" to the position, Kessler added.

The commission criticized recently enacted laws punishing people with HIV by stating that, although it understands pressure on lawmakers to "respond to constituent fears and concerns," the commission "is very concerned that policies may be enacted into law that are better left to scientists and public health experts."

Other recommendations included: full funding of existing legislation addressing AIDS; more funding for social spending on AIDS/HIV as opposed to funding for biomedical research; drug treatment on demand; approval by the Food and Drug Administration of "promising new therapies" for HIV disease; and the aggressive pursuit of the participation of women and people of color in clinical trials.

The report predicted that the national death toll from AIDS, currently at 120,000, will climb to 350,000 by the end of 1993. It stated that the disease is "already the leading cause of death of young men and women in many parts of the country."

—Dawn Schmitz

Gay, blind teacher wins award

PHILADELPHIA—The man voted Teacher of the Year by the Philadelphia Board of Education is both blind and openly gay. *The Philadelphia Examiner* reported that James Gallagher was chosen from 40 nominees for the honor, which brings with it a \$5000 cash award.

"It's a shame that gay kids have to hide part of their selves," said Gallagher, adding that he is "more sensitive toward children who are different" than most teachers are, due to his disability and sexual orientation.

—Dawn Schmitz

Dyke of color fest

BOSTON—A "Multicultural Extravaganza" was produced Sept. 15 by a new lesbian multicultural arts group with the aim of showcasing the talents of women of color for the entire lesbian community. An estimated 150 people at Indigo nightclub were met with a surprise appearance by Casselbury-Dupree as well dancing, drumming, poetry readings, story telling, a fashion show featuring African clothing, craft displays, and safer sex education for women.

In addition, women tasted Asian, traditional African American and Puerto Rican food. Mili Roca, of ALANA Spectrum, the new group that produced the event, said it was well organized yet spontaneous, adding, "We were open to allowing people to do what they wanted to do." The acronym ALANA, she said, stands for African, Latina, Asian and Native American. The goal of ALANA is to have each group represented, although there are

currently no Asian American or Native American members. "Women sitting around a kitchen table are very powerful," she said, explaining that was how the idea for the extravaganza germinated.

—Dawn Schmitz

Black Gay Pride in Baltimore

BALTIMORE—The city's first Black Gay Pride Day, held here Sept. 8, drew several hundred people, the *Baltimore Gay Paper* reported. The event was sponsored by the newly-formed Black Gay Community Center of Baltimore and included live entertainment, retail and informational booths and refreshments.

—Dawn Schmitz

Air Force major refuses to take HIV test

McGUIRE AIR FORCE BASE, N.J.—An Air Force major who refused to take a mandatory HIV test is facing court martial and a possible 10-year prison sentence for insubordination, Minneapolis' *GLC Voice* reported. The Air Force requires all personnel to take HIV tests every two years.

Major Michael Campbell, who twice tested negative for HIV, contends the repeated testing is an unnecessary invasion of privacy and amounts to AIDS hysteria. He agrees, however, that new recruits should be tested. "It makes sense to test people [when they enter the Air Force]," he said. "But later, if you have no symptoms and no risk factors, it seems like they're policing me."

—Dawn Schmitz



Food, glorious food

BOSTON -- "The demand for hot, home-delivered meals for homebound PWAs in Boston is overwhelming, we get calls everyday," said Dede Ketover, Executive Director of Community Servings, a non-profit organization that provides a meals-on-wheels program for people with AIDS. "We want to be able to feed every homebound PWA and their families and caregivers. We want to prepare home cooked meals from scratch that are helpful to a PWA diet—soft diets, or high-iron, low-fiber, high-calorie—and that are part of their specific culture. Over 70 percent of our clients are people of color."

Community Servings is sponsoring a benefit at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 6, called Lifesavor, at Cyclorama at the Boston Center for the Arts on Tremont St. in the South End. The event will feature a "stick to your ribs" western-style brunch; "Two Step" dance demonstrations and instructions; and a special appearance by actor/choreographer/director Tommy Tune, taking part in a picnic basket auction.

Tickets for Lifesavor are \$25 for brunch, auction and dance; \$7 for dance only. Call Community Servings at (617) 330-9630. Tickets are also available at Bostix and Ticketmaster outlets.

—Christopher Wittke

Doctors claim minuscule HIV risk

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—The probability of HIV transmission between surgeon and patient is one chance in 21 million for each hour of surgery, according to a letter in the Sept. 19 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Even if a surgeon is HIV-positive, there is only a one in 83,000 chance of transmission for every hour of surgery, according to two doctors.

The *Boston Globe* reported that Drs. Albert B. Lowefels and Gary Wormser of New York Medical College calculated these statistics by multiplying the probabilities of three events—the likelihood of a puncture wound occurring during a procedure, the likelihood that a surgeon is HIV-positive and the likelihood of HIV transmission resulting from a single puncture wound.

—Jacob Smith Yang

AIDS TREATMENT NOTES

Beginning this week GCN introduces a regular column on the treatment and epidemiology of AIDS related illnesses. The facts and opinions presented come from AIDS treatment journals and the mainstream press, and from information on ACT UP's struggles and negotiations with government agencies, drug companies, hospitals and researchers.

566C80 available on compassionate use basis

566C80 is a promising new drug that is being studied for the treatment of a number of the opportunistic infections resulting from HIV infection, particularly pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP). Initial results from a yet-to-be-released study indicate that for those who are intolerant of the standard drugs used to treat PCP, 566C80 may be lifesaving.

Up until now, 566C80 has been available only to those in clinical trials. Burroughs-Wellcome, which manufactures 566C80 (as well as AZT), plans to announce on Oct. 15 the implementation of a compassionate use program which will allow doctors to obtain 566C80 for their patients who cannot tolerate standard therapies. The drug will also be available to treat toxoplasmosis.

To obtain 566C80, doctors can call the general Burroughs-Wellcome number, (800) 722-9292. Dr. Mike Rogers of B-W is in charge of the drug project and has been directed to be forthcoming both with information on the drug and with the drug itself.

566C80 is a hydroxynaphthoquinone compound with strong activity against PCP, and possible effectiveness in treating toxoplasmosis and cryptosporidiosis. It first came to the attention of treatment activists in 1990, through a search for alternatives to existing therapies. These therapies, primarily intravenous Pentamidine and Septra (a.k.a. Bactrim, or generically as TMP/SMX), are extremely toxic and fail to benefit 50 percent of those requiring treatment for PCP.

Enthusiasm for 566C80 comes out of the analysis of a drug trial being sponsored by the AIDS Clinical Trial Group (ACTG, Trial #167) which compares 566C80 to Septra. The preliminary results suggest that the two drugs are comparable in treating mild to moderate PCP.

Prior to this, ACT UP/Boston and New York negotiated with Burroughs-Wellcome for the release of 566C80 through a consensus statement cosigned by organizations around the country, and through a video distributed to researchers and Burroughs-Wellcome depicting the need for 566C80 by a member of ACT UP/Boston who was severely ill with PCP and allergic to TMP/SMX. After months of negotiation, Burroughs-Wellcome announced the compassionate use program for 566C80.

The bad news

While we are pleased with the ongoing negotiations with Burroughs-Wellcome, we are concerned about the FDA's intention for stringent exclusion criteria on the Treatment IND protocol (an FDA regulatory status allowing expanded access to an experimental treatment). The FDA wants to limit the use of 566C80 to those who have failed on TMP/SMX because of a toxicity response, and would not allow its use for those who simply didn't respond to TMP/SMX.

Second, the FDA is considering further restricting its availability to those who have not only failed on TMP/SMX, but who have also failed on Pentamidine. Since I.V. Pentamidine has a high failure rate and often life-threatening side effects, ACT UP/Boston has strongly protested the forced use of Pentamidine to qualify for 566C80.

Subsequent to these protests, Burroughs-Wellcome removed the Pentamidine "hoop" from the protocol it gave to the FDA; however, the FDA might require it anyway.

ACT UP is closely monitoring the FDA's response to the draft of this protocol. New York activists are planning to speak with FDA director David Kessler regarding the urgency of making 566C80 available.

ACT UP/Boston meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Boston Living Center, 7th floor of the YWCA on Clarendon Street (opposite AIDS Action and the Hard Rock Cafe).

—David Peck and Todd Summers ACT UP/Boston Treatment Issues



BOSTON—Community leaders criticized police violence at a meeting at Roxbury Community College on Sept. 25. (Pictured left to right: Jearl McGuire and John O'Bryant of the Boston School Committee, Boston City Councilor Charles Yancey, State Rep. Byron Rushing, and Gerald Anderson of the District School Committee). Rushing denounced the mayor and police commissioner for their inaction following the alleged police attacks and arrest last month of a prominent African American lawyer, Robert Johnson, and his son. Officials' silence, he said in a statement, "is part of a cover up of an egregious violation of the rights, safety and dignity of two Black men." Gay and lesbian activists, who have also pushed for civilian review, joined Rushing at a press conference four days earlier.

—Photo by Laura Wulf, text by Dawn Schmitz

FOR THE ACTIVIST IN YOU

• National protest at the White House for AIDS care, Mon., Sept. 30; and at Congress for national health insurance Tues., Oct. 1. ACT UP: (212) 564-AIDS

• ACT UP/Boston is calling for a phone zap of regional Housing & Urban Development administrator, John Mastropietro, the "heartless bureaucrat" who helped cancel 52 units of PWA housing this week (see story p.3). Mastropietro: (617) 565-5234. "Tell Mastropietro that the people waiting for this housing cannot live without it." Info: 42A-CTUP

• Demand reproductive freedom Thurs., Oct. 3 at the Federal Courthouse 5 p.m., then vigil at the JFK Federal Building, Gov't Ctr. T. 6:30 p.m. In memory of Rosie Jimenez who died Oct. 3, '77 of an unsafe, non-subsidized abortion. NOW: (617) 782-1056

• Visit our pal (not!) Louis Sullivan, the federal Health & Human Services Secy. who opposes health benefits to women with AIDS, and who buried the 1989 report on lesbian/gay/bi teen suicide. Sullivan's latest visit to Boston will be Thurs. Oct. 3 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Park Plaza Hotel. Info: 42A-CTUP

• Educate yourself about the politics of RU-486, Norplant and Depro-Provera at a forum sponsored by Women of Color for Reproductive Freedom and Boston Reproductive Rights Network, Oct. 5, 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Simmons College. Info: 738-9479.

• Voice your views for a queer-sensitive and AIDS-sensitive Boston school board. Mayor Ray Flynn is currently appointing school board members, after 200 years of popular elections for the positions. Flynn: 725-4500

• If you're not already registered, REGISTER TO VOTE, for the general elections Nov. 5. Voter registration deadline is Oct. 16. Call City Hall voter info. for locations: 725-4635.

Got some activist news? Call 426-4469; fax 426-2723.

—Carrie Wofford

When being queer is not enough

Lesbian and gay communities in New York and Cambridge challenge openly lesbian and gay candidates on whether they really represent the community

By Jacob Smith Yang

BOSTON—Is identifying oneself as a gay or lesbian candidate enough to garner support from the local gay community? The recent city council primary in New York and endorsements in Cambridge suggest that it takes more than self-identification to get elected with gay and lesbian backing.

"A preference is being expressed towards candidates who have clear roots within the gay and lesbian community they run from," said Sue Hyde of the Cambridge Lavender Alliance. "Why should grassroots community-based organizations support candidates who are not involved with their communities?"

In New York City, gay men and lesbians watching the race for the city council had focused on the Third District campaigns of long-time gay activist Tom Duane and openly lesbian lawyer, Liz Abzug. Duane won the Sept. 12 primary by 59 percent of the vote to Abzug's 26 percent, despite Abzug's name recognition as the daughter of longtime women's rights activist, former Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY). Duane is now virtually assured a Nov. 5 victory against token Republican and Conservative candidates. If elected, he will be the first openly gay city councilor in New York City.

Redistricting's Impact

One element of Duane's victory was the recent re-districting of New York City, aimed at creating a more diversely representative city council. For years, gay men and lesbians have tried to elect an openly gay man or lesbian to the city council. Activists pressured the redistricting commission to set boundaries in District 3 that made it viable for a gay candidate to run and win. The redrawn district includes Greenwich Village, with its high concentration of gay voters, and the adjacent neighborhoods of Chelsea and Clinton.

The District 3 race was complicated by the presence of two gay candidates running against each other. Local activists feared that the Democratic gay vote, thought to be about 25 percent of the vote, resulting in the

victory of a candidate with no allegiance to the gay and lesbian community.

In the end, however, most of the gay vote went to Duane, a 36 year-old former stockbroker, rather than Abzug, a state official who only came out publicly shortly before the election.

Abzug's sudden decision to announce her sexual orientation was criticized by some elements within the gay community. Queer Nation/New York posted flyers through the district with a quote from Abzug, "My mother has done a lot for your community." Below the quote appeared the quizzical statement, "Now she comes out?"

Both candidates sought endorsements from mainstream and progressive public officials and political groups. Mayor David Dinkins, the *New York Times* and the *New York Native*, a local gay newspaper, endorsed Abzug, the daughter of former Rep. Bella Abzug. Duane picked up endorsements from openly lesbian assembly member Deborah Glick, the *Village Voice*, City Council President Andrew Stein and City Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman, for whom Duane had worked as a community coordinator.

Ultimately Duane's high visibility within the gay community won him the election over Abzug's city-wide name recognition. Duane had served as a Democratic district leader, was active in neighborhood organizations and attended ACT UP demonstrations. Abzug had little record of community involvement within District 3 and had worked only at the state level.

Observers speculate that Duane's disclosure that he was HIV positive enhanced his campaign by increasing his visibility.

A Noble effort

Elaine Noble, candidate for Cambridge City Council, is no stranger to electoral politics; she was the first open lesbian elected to a state legislature in Massachusetts in 1974. But like New York's Abzug, Noble found that being a high-profile lesbian, even

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BOSTON--Over 150 disabled activists marched and wheeled through downtown Boston, and rallied at the State House and Boston Common Saturday, Sept. 21 for Disability Pride Day.

PWA housing endangered

HUD outrages housing advocates by halting housing designated for PWAs, saying such housing "discriminates" against people with other disabilities

By Dawn Schmitz

BOSTON—The federal offices of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) surprised local housing experts and AIDS advocates last week when they decided to withdraw funding from nearly completed projects supplying housing designed specifically for people with AIDS (PWAs), because they discriminate against people with other disabilities and therefore violate HUD anti-discrimination laws.

While HUD's finding specifically affects projects in Massachusetts, it could have implications for those in other states as well. "If HUD reneges on these projects, many people will die," said Todd Summers, director of the AIDS Housing Corporation in Boston.

HUD announced Sept. 20 it will halt financing for 52 certificates of Section 8 subsidies that had been earmarked for local PWA housing projects, possibly causing dozens of people to wait indefinitely for housing they were expecting to be available in two months. The housing is on hold pending negotiations between state agencies and HUD.

The 52 units of housing at stake are part of the overall development of 199 low-income and supportive housing units in Boston and Springfield, Mass. Along with single-room occupancy housing for homeless HIV-symptomatic men and HIV-symptomatic clients of the Dept. of Mental Health, Massachusetts had intended to introduce the first housing units in the state designed for families with HIV-positive members who experience AIDS-related symptoms. Included in these are eight two-bedroom apartments for recovering HIV-symptomatic women and their children. Summers noted that such women have traditionally been separated from their children. "Now there's nothing to offer them," he said. "For some people this is going to be a death sentence."

PWA housing advocates expressed dismay and shock at HUD's finding, which came more than a year after the regional office had approved the projects, and many non-profit and two state agencies had added more than \$6 million in additional funds, to develop the housing and accompanying social services. "Many non-profit agencies have invested thousands of dollars of their own to develop these units of badly needed housing based upon HUD's commitment," charged Summers.

The state housing developer, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Communities and Development (EOCD), in cooperation with the state Department of Public Health, had already begun awarding contracts to establish PWA housing and social services based upon HUD's initial approval of the EOCD's proposal last year. "Because we had received initial approval, it's a setback that we didn't expect," said Diane Butler of the EOCD.

Although the regional HUD office initially approved the EOCD's program last year, the federal offices of HUD issued a legal opinion last month declaring that "an exclusion of otherwise qualified handicapped persons [from HUD-funded housing], because of their handicap, violates ... nondiscrimination requirements." ACT UP/Boston is calling for a phone zap of John Mastropietro, the regional administrator of HUD, whom it blames for scuttling the PWA housing by sending the request for funding to the

national level instead of approving the proposal himself.

"It was within the authority of the regional office to approve it," said Summers, who is a member of ACT UP. He said the actions of the regional office were "clearly an attempt to derail the project."

Activists decried HUD's finding that the projects were discriminatory, asserting that the agency took a narrow interpretation of the fair housing law it invoked. They point to the presence of existing HUD-funded housing designated specifically for veterans and mentally retarded or developmentally disabled people as evidence that HUD has funded housing for specific groups of disabled individuals without such claims of discrimination. "They're saying that to provide housing for people with particular disabilities is discriminatory.... We feel [such housing] is appropriate," said Cyndi Koeber, housing developer for AIDS Action Committee in Boston. The unique combination of housing and direct services—such as case managers and access to health care—provided in the project presents an important move toward on-site services.

Currently, activists are pessimistic about the outcome of negotiations between the EOCD and the regional office of HUD which, at presstime, appeared to be merely solidifying HUD's ruling. Activists do not expect HUD to overturn their ruling and allow funds for PWA-specific housing to be granted.

Summers stated that if negotiations fail, the projects will have to start from the beginning in searching for funding, and the EOCD will have to advertise the availability of the Section 8 certificates as being available for housing not specifically designed for PWAs. Summers predicted the process could push the projects back for several months. He said preliminary indications from the negotiations show that not only will the certificates have to be re-advertised in this way, but that the units will also have to be made available to anyone with an "immunological disorder of a degenerative nature." This means that people with immunological diseases such as lupus would be eligible for the housing, in addition to PWAs.

Summers noted further that such a delay in federal funding—until the projects re-emerge as those that meet with HUD's definition of non-discrimination—could permanently kill some of the projects due to missed deadlines for their other funding sources. Housing advocates say that EOCD negotiators hope HUD will waive certain regulations—such as those mandating the length of time they must advertise the contracts to develop the housing—in order to expedite the process.

Koeber said if HUD is unwilling to negotiate its decision, housing advocates may be forced to ask the city or the state for funding for these projects if the HUD money falls through or is delayed indefinitely. "If we go down this road with HUD, we could walk into a situation when we're talking years and years of delay," she said. She lamented that receiving money from the city would undoubtedly cut into the funds allocated under a proposed set-aside of monies to build more than 500 units of PWA housing.

Although Congress this year formally

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Election firsts

Seattle activist beats 24-year incumbent; nears victory as nation's first elected African American lesbian. In Boston, openly gay Cronin wins slot on November ballot, beating incumbent 3:1 in gay neighborhood



SEATTLE, Wash.—After a Sept. 18 primary election, candidate for city council Sherry Harris came one step closer to becoming the country's first openly lesbian, African American elected official. Harris trounced 24-year incumbent Sam Smith, receiving 45 percent of the vote (22,831) to Smith's 37 percent (19,109). Smith will now face Harris in the Nov. 5 general election.

In conveying a broader message to the community, Harris, an engineer and community leader, says she believes we must seriously reexamine the policies that govern people.

Smith accused the gay community of causing him to get a low rating by the Municipal League of King County, a non-partisan organization rates candidates on ability and effectiveness.

Harris is one of the first candidates supported by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a new national organization dedicated to electing openly lesbian and gay candidates to city, county, state and congressional offices.

—Jacob Smith Yang



BOSTON—Openly gay, HIV positive activist Michael Cronin qualified in the Sept. 24 Democratic primary against conservative Democratic incumbent James Kelly to win a spot on the Nov. ballot for city council from District 2. District 2 comprises largely conservative South Boston, Chinatown, Downtown Boston, and Bay Village and the South End, which together contain the city's largest concentration of gay voters.

Cronin carried 19 percent of the district's vote to Kelly's 72 percent, a wide margin Cronin needs to overcome if he is to win in the fall.

The key component of Cronin's campaign strategy has been to register as many non-South Boston residents as possible within the district. The same number of voting-age residents live in South Boston as in the other areas of the district combined, according to Cronin, yet South Boston accounts for two-thirds of the district's registered voters. Those numbers work against Cronin. Registering voters in the other

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GCN JOB OPENINGS

Business Manager

Responsible for financial management using computerized accounting system, for accounts payable and receivable, staff payroll and generating regular financial reports. Perform general office management tasks. Develop and maintain bookstore sales and bookstore accounts. Negotiate and maintain longterm exchange advertisement contracts. Act as one of two staff liaisons to the Board of Directors. This position will work closely with the development coordinator on long-range financial planning and developing annual budgets.

Qualifications: Strong administrative and financial skills and experience. Experience with non-profit management or bookkeeping preferred. Strong interpersonal and group meeting skills.

Deadline for applications: September 28, 1991

Development Coordinator

Responsible for fundraising including grant writing and events planning. Act as liaison to the Board of Directors and Sustainer Committee. With promotions coordinator, develop and implement direct mail fundraising campaigns. Work with business manager on long term financial planning. Responsible for preparing and presenting annual report. Position also includes public relations work, community outreach and coordinating volunteer and intern programs.

Promotions Coordinator

Available December. Devise strategies to increase sales of GCN through subscriptions, newsstands, and bookstores. Coordinate direct mail campaigns, design and send renewal notices, exchange advertising, VISA/MasterCard sales and other promotions.

Qualifications: Experience in sales, advertising, marketing and finances desirable. Copy writing ability and graphics/design skills. Familiarity with computers.

Qualifications: Fundraising and grant writing experience. Strong writing, organizational and public relations skills

Deadline for applications: September 28

GCN Positions All GCN positions require commitments to lesbian/gay liberation, feminism, anti-racism, an awareness of class issues, and collective decision-making.

Salary/Benefits: All positions pay \$230/week and include health/life insurance through Harvard Community Health Plan, dental allowance, sick leave, and four weeks paid vacation. GCN offers staff members responsibility for their own jobs, with flexibility and ample room for innovation.

Please send resume and cover letter to: GCN Job Search Committee, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

Word Processor

Temporary (3-6 mos.), parttime position. Responsible for coordinating word processing of all articles for paper as well as classified advertisement pages. This temporary, parttime position, paid at hourly rate (\$10 per hour.), would not include collective responsibilities nor collective benefits outlined above.

Qualifications: Typing 65-plus words per minute, familiarity with computers (Microsoft Word and Quark Xpress software)

Deadline for applications: September 28

Safe, wimmin-only space is precious

Dear GCN:

This letter is in response to the commentary and letter concerning the removal of the transsexual from the land during the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. The essential element, that a male-to-female transsexual was asked to leave the festival land, was ignored.

Nancy can claim to be a womyn all he wants and use legal papers from the patriarchy to prove it but I agree with festival policy. Surgically removing a penis and taking estrogen does not a womyn make. If a white womyn said, "I feel on the inside that I am a Native American," and dressed and claimed to be a Native American, she would not have become Native American. If western medicine figures out a way to implant a Native American gene in an adult Anglo body, will we accept that they are Native? I think not. Why is it that because patriarchal medicine has made it possible to surgically remove a penis and use estrogen that some of us so readily accept claims of surgically altered men masquerading as wimmin?

I witnessed the removal of Nancy from the land. It was done with respect and dignity. The festival assured that he had transportation and also made and paid for reservations at a motel 20 minutes from the festival gates, a fact that both Nancy and his companion left out of their reports.

Nancy was initially approached by a coordinator of communications because campers hanging out with him became uncomfortable and convinced he was a man. When he produced legal papers showing he was female but refused to discuss his sex-change operation, he was asked to leave. There are wimmin at the festival that defy all gender expectations in terms of body hair, body shape, voice and mannerism. There are no "gender police" at the festival, but there are wimmin committed to responding to camper concerns and maintaining a safe wimmin-only environment.

I witnessed the care, consideration and concern shown for everyone involved in this

situation. It was uncomfortable and emotional. The transsexual removed from the land and his companion were very unhappy and disturbed. The wimmin campers who first perceived Nancy as a man were relieved and their feeling of safety was restored.

Lesbian-identified wimmin-only space is precious and increasingly rare. As a long time worker my commitment is to support a philosophy and policy maintaining wimmin only space which excludes surgically altered males. I expect that the phrase "womyn born womyn only" will appear in the advertisement literature next year and the excuse that Nancy used to rationalize his presence will no longer be available.

Flowing
St. Louis, Mo.

Veterans speak out

Dear GCN:

My name Cliff Anersen and I am the Medical Administrative Clerk in the Dept. of Psychiatry at the Veterans Administration's Causeway St. Outpatient Clinic in Boston. Additionally, I am the co-president of the New England Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans (NEGLBV), also located in Boston.

From May 6-8, 1991, I was in Washington D.C. to assist Ms. Ilonka Thomas, HIV/AIDS Coordinator, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, in the presentation of an AIDS workshop, while attending the Tenth Annual Conference on the Concerns of Vietnam Veterans.

This annual conference is sponsored by the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences at UMass/Boston. For the last three years, the NEGLBV have been a part of this conference that also included delegations representing Black, Hispanic, Native American and women veterans. In 1989 and 1990, I testified as an openly bisexual veteran before the U.S. House Committee on Veterans Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. I addressed the issues of AIDS, homelessness and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Agent Orange and the repeal of the Dept. of Defense's present exclusionary policies that prohibit

gay and bisexual people in the military.

While at the May conference I carried with me and delivered eight letters of complaint describing problems at the Causeway St. Outpatient Clinic. The letter was written by my chief and delivered to members of Congress and their staff.

The letter specifically asked that my chief not be identified because of possible retribution from our superiors. However, a copy of the letter was sent to the Director of the VA Medical Center in Boston, and as a result, "blew our cover."

Since then, we have been harassed by our superiors and by the Veterans Administration Police. For these reasons and the possibility of losing our jobs, we feel that we have no recourse but to inform the media to expose the truth concerning conditions at the Causeway St. Outpatient Clinic.

Prior the the signing of the above-mentioned letter, calling for an investigation into conditions as Causeway, there were two other investigations that we feel were a cover-up and whitewash at the local level.

As an advocate for our country's veterans, and as advocate for the lesbian, gay and bisexual community, my position is clear: all of our country's veterans deserve the best possible medical care available, along with compassionate and humane treatment. This is not the case at the Causeway St. Outpatient Clinic, and appears to be pervasive in many facilities throughout the country.

The serious nature of the problems that exist here include: unequal treatment on the basis of race; mismanagement of government monies; critical shortage of staff; and a hostile and unsympathetic administration.

If a third investigation cannot resolve the problems that exist here in Boston, then as a U.S. veteran and employee of the government, I call upon our elected officials to call for a congressional hearing.

The 17.2 million veterans of our country have served honorably and proudly, and many more fought and died on the battlefield so we, as Americans could live in a society that is free. A society that is free of oppression based on one's gender, race or sexual orientation. A society that promotes an egalitarian civilization.

So let us put our principles where our mouths are, and give back to our country's veterans what they are entitled to and what they deserve, our government's care, love and respect, in the form of quality medical/psychological care, to soothe their broken bones and heal the horrors of war locked inside their minds. "In God we trust."

Sincerely and respectfully yours,
Cliff Arnesen
Boston, Mass.

Putting yourself at risk

Dear GCN:

I'm writing to you seeking your advice and assistance in a very important matter. I'm a gay male. As being a gay male I'm in a very high risk group for AIDS. But I'm also a gay male who is in prison. This places me in even a higher risk group. In this state of Massachusetts, condoms are not being passed out or even allowed in the prisons.

I feel that by not allowing or passing out condoms, this state is showing us that gay prisoners and prisoners in general are expendable. On the other hand the state education board has just approved the passing out of condoms in schools.

Now if a prisoner has AIDS or gets AIDS in prison, the system has to pay for the medical treatment. I feel that if they would pass out condoms and prevent the spread of AIDS, rather than save the money of the condoms at the same time they are paying a lot of taxpayers' money for treatment.

The gay community supported William Weld for the officer of governor. But I have not seen anything Governor Weld has done for the gay community.

I'm asking for your assistance in my campaign to remedy this problem. If your paper can not aid me in this, then could they advise me who to contact for support of this campaign. I have written a letter to GLAD and Governor William Weld. By writing to the Governor I've placed my minimum placement security at risk. But if someone isn't willing to place themselves at risk nothing will ever be done to change all the injustices against the gay community.

I would like to thank you for all and any assistance and advice that you can render.

Sincerely,
Arthur L. Terrien
P.O. Box 1069
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Gay Community News

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Housing

Continued from page 3

ordered HUD to provide 500 units of housing across the country specifically for PWAs—in response to HUD's refusal the year before to provide any AIDS-specific housing—these 52 units are not part of that 500, according to Koebert. HUD's Sept. 20 ruling said that the PWA housing could not exclude people with other disabilities because there had been no specific legislative mandate for the projects to supersede HUD's antidiscrimination laws.

On the national level, the lack of federal action on housing for PWAs was blasted at a Sept. 26 rally in New York, when 50 people erected several cardboard dwellings at the HUD building in New York to dramatize the plight of homeless PWAs. According to ACT UP, who organized the protest, there are 13,000 homeless PWAs in New York City alone.

One of ACT UP's demands was full funding of the AIDS Opportunities Housing Act, which authorized \$156 million to be spent on PWA housing in fiscal year 1992. According to Carolyn Bartholomew, legislative director for U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco, who sponsored the legislation, \$50 million will soon be appropriated by Congress for the act and will soon be made available. She said that amount is considered good in the context of the current conservative political climate.

Other ACT UP demands included an end to discrimination against people with AIDS and HIV in federally funded housing projects, and the recognition by HUD that AIDS and HIV illness are life-threatening disabilities.

"There are people calling daily asking when the housing will be ready," said Koebert. "People are dying while we go through these bureaucratic channels." □

Cronin

Continued from page 3

neighborhoods, therefore, may be Cronin's only chance at winning. Cronin points out that he carried the South End by a margin of three-to-one and suggests that Kelly has minimum support outside of South Boston.

Cronin's situation highlights the need in Boston for the kind of strategic redistricting that occurred in New York for the Tom Duane-Liz Abzug race. "Redistricting would really be of unquestionable benefit," said Cronin. "We have already won in the sense that these primary numbers bear that out. I think we will have new districts in two years." At Cronin's victory party, state Rep. Byron Rushing concurred, adding that if the South End's voters represented a single racial group, Cronin's three-to-one margin would mandate redistricting.

Cronin has been active both within the gay community and as a prominent member of ACT UP, and says that activists must become involved in the electoral process. "It is essential that we start building coalitions between progressive politicians and political activists," said Cronin, who considers himself the latter. "We need to give activism a good name again, and part of that is getting involved in the political process."

—Dawn Schmitz and Jacob Smith Yang

Helms

Continued from page 1

community. "Generally, Helms opposes the existence of a visible lesbian and gay community," said King. "He is particularly upset when our community's creative people receive government stipends." Restricting funding of homoerotic art was a direct reaction to NEA's support of an exhibition of the sometimes homoerotic photography of Robert Mapplethorpe.

The recent amendment was defeated by a vote of 29-70. The recent amendment targeting the NEA, was similarly a reaction to funding of the Jennie Livingston film, *Paris is Burning*, which documents the competitive "costume balls" of New York City transvestites. Moreover, Helms is expected to introduce an amendment challenging an upcoming bill that funds the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, based on his objections to its airing Marlon Riggs' *Tongues Untied*, a film that documents the experiences of African-American gay men.

The amendment is not only an attack on gay art, but all artistic expression. "As it stands, the Helms amendment could be interpreted to call for closing of the National Gallery of Art," said King. "Certainly more thoughtful people will be able to consider the implications of its broadness." King hopes a joint House-Senate committee will strike down the amendment later this month.

Vaid cautioned, "There is no guarantee that the Helms NEA amendment won't be maintained in House-Senate Conference Committee—his amendments have come out of those committees before." Many people

are asking how Helms' anti-art campaign has come so far in the last year.

Helms' new influence

What concerns King and other gay and lesbian activists is the perception that Helms is gaining power within the Senate. Many point to early attempts to pass restrictive measures against the NEA, which in the past have failed.

Some argue that Helms has used the increased prominence of gay and lesbian-rights issues as a rallying point to exacerbate the public's deeply entrenched xenophobia and homophobia. Part of that stems from Helms' stubborn assertion that his right-wing agenda is the one-and-only way, with no possibility of compromise. Thus he has been able to construe the very existence of visible opposition to his agenda as evidence of "a conspiracy" against the values of his supporters.

Mandy Carter, director of the North Carolina Lesbian and Gay Political Action Agenda, told *GCN* that even those in North Carolina who don't necessarily subscribe to Helms' right-wing agenda come forth to support him. A commonly stated reason for supporting Helms within North Carolina is "At least you know where the man stands." "Basically, the man is a mean-spirited bully, he always has been," said Carter, "but people have come to expect it, accept it and that is how he gets away with things."

Bullying the Senate

Washington insiders assert that Helms' expert ability to cultivate and harness public hysteria is the foundation for his power in the Senate. In Ernest B. Ferguson's 1986 book, *Hard to the Right: The Rise of Jesse Helms*, one senator, who insists on remaining anonymous, tells that Helms "works not so much within the Senate as outside. Often the whole purpose of his programming a vote is politics, so he can use it with a press release or by mailing off thousands of letters by pressing a button on a computer.... You have to perceive that anything you say or do will be used against you in a political, distorted way."

"Helms does know how to press the buttons that worry a politician," said Steve Smith, an HRCF lobbyist. "He taps into current public fears and misunderstandings on issues and is able to phrase things in such a way that people are afraid not to vote for something." Smith cited two examples in the overwhelming passage of Helms' HIV amendments in July. Given the public hysteria over a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) report that Kimberly Bergalis had contracted AIDS from her dentist, Smith said senators were afraid to be perceived by their constituency as not supporting a measure that seemed to address the problem. They voted with Helms even though public health experts had testified that the Helms' amendments would not help stop HIV transmission.

Smith partially attributes the success of Helms' HIV amendments to his ability to phrase them in such a way that they seem to make sense, masking the complexities of the issues. For example, on the HIV Penalty Amendment, to many people not familiar with HIV issues it seemed logical that a health care worker who knew he or she was HIV positive should inform their patients or face criminal penalties. But the underlying truth—that such a measure did not address the issue of preventing HIV transmission and in fact would discourage health-care worker HIV testing—was masked by Helms' wording.

"We thought we had educated legislators on these issues, but apparently such education takes a backseat to political considerations or the education wears off quickly," said Smith. Progressive senators, such as Paul Simon (D-Ill.) and John Kerry (D-Mass.) reportedly apologized to HRCF after the votes, explaining they knew they should not have sided with Helms, but feared voter response if Republican National Committee highlighted it as an issue in their re-election campaigns.

"The power Helms exercises in these instances is from a threat to provide right-wing groups with issues that will hurt legislators in their re-election campaigns," added Smith.

Smith said that even though no senator may really expect that one vote will make a difference in his or her next election campaign, incumbents do ask themselves if it might be easier to vote for a bill because of how it is perceived, rather than having to explain it to an "unsophisticated constituency" later. Senators often vote for amendments if they sense the measure would pass regardless of their votes. One Democratic senator reported that, after voting against Helms' HIV amendment, he was advised by his staff to switch his vote to what appeared to be that of the majority. In such instances, senators rationalize that their

Continued on page 10

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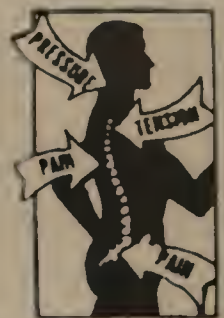
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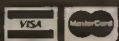
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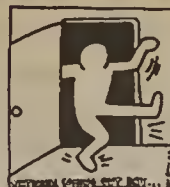
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'This life is quite enough'

THE QUENTIN CRISP INTERVIEW



Continued from page 1

Sterling Stowell: You are both gay and a crossdresser. Do you identify more as a member of the gay community or the crossgender community, and how has this influenced your development as a person?

Quentin Crisp: I suppose originally I thought of myself as a gay person, someone who was homosexual and who felt that the world was preventing me from forming what to me then were romantic relationships with some man or other. Now I suppose that all I am is somebody who doesn't bother with the gender distinctions that the world tried to impose. But if I had been born later, if I were young and in my twenties now, I don't think my personality would have become nearly so shrill, because you can wear almost anything nowadays in big cities. Everything I say is a sweeping statement, but it all has to be qualified by the fact that I live an urban life. I have never lived in a village and I hope I

never shall. And in the big cities of the West, I would say most people do as they please. Whereas in a time gone by you could have made a whole list of clothes, occupations, hobbies, words, gestures that were suitable for a young man, and another list of the same things suitable for a woman. Now that is no longer so, almost anything goes.

SS: You mentioned earlier that if you were younger now, you might be living your life perhaps a little bit differently. Do you identify with the gay community, say in the last 20 years, in that there has been an increase in activism and in pushing for civil rights?

QC: Well, less than I would have liked. When I first came here, I was saddened by the fact that the gay community was angry with me. I don't know what I thought but I hadn't thought that, and I realized fairly soon that they imagined that I was somebody who went about the world hiring places in which

to deliver a manifesto. I said to them that I was hired, that my function was simply to sell theater seats.

I suppose my most binding relationships have always been with my employers. When I write books, I hand them in and say, "Are these the words you wish to print?" When I do interviews, I say, "Am I saying the things you hope to hear?" And it's the same everywhere. When I went on to those tiny stages in New York and in Los Angeles, I was trying to speak to a theater audience which in my opinion was, throughout the world, middle-class, middle-aged women with broken hearts. They go to the theater. And so I was speaking to them about their problems of being alive, rather than gay problems which I don't think would have brought anybody into the theater unless I was being shocking. Then people would have said, "You've got to see that!" So, no I've never been an activist, it's not in my nature to start with. I think nearly all of us justify our behavior which really has been adopted in

accordance with our nature, and my nature is to accept and to endure.

SS: Many people in the gay community—and it is certainly true of myself—admire your ability to survive and the way that you have chosen to live your very individual life despite criticism and even violence. Do you see yourself as a role model?

QC: Yes, well, it is kind of you to see that as survival, but I don't see myself as a role model. I do see that I have survived, and survived in a different sense from merely staying alive. That's remarkable enough because I am now over 80, but I have not only survived; I have become happier as time has gone by. I have been lucky and that depends at least as much on the world as it does on me.

SS: That was my next question: Would you describe yourself as a happy person, and are you happier now that you are living your life more closely to that which you have always wanted?

QC: Well, I have lived the life I wanted to but I live it now with less resistance, and most of the time with actual encouragement because Americans are so much more friendly than the rest of the world. I was once on a program ruled by Mr. Donahue, and all the English people living in New York were connected with all the Americans living in England.

SS: I saw that.

QC: And Miss Martin, who was once an English comedienne, said what were to me the key words about Americans: "If you think of doing anything in America, everybody's on your side." If you said to your friends, "I'm going to get up a cabaret act," they would all say, "What are you going to wear? What are you going to do? Would you like the name of my agent?" In England if you said, "I'm getting up a cabaret act," somebody would say, "For God's sake don't make a fool of yourself!" It's kindly meant but it's always discouraging. But now I live here and I've never met anyone who has said it is not a good idea to do this, or wear that, or say this. They all say, "Go to it!"

SS: Have you ever felt that you have done something or said something that you wish you hadn't?

QC: Oh, yes, in fact when I look back over my life it is full of small but very definite misjudgments. Tiny things such as going to see somebody and after arriving home thinking to yourself, "They were waiting for me to leave. Should I write them and say I'm sorry? No better not, better leave it." Or thinking I said the wrong thing, that I made unsuitable jokes to people who thought that they were directed against them and were offended. Oh yes, all the time, I'm never free. Some people seem to have those wonderful manners whereby they never do anything wrong, they never say too much, but I constantly make mistakes, even now.

SS: And yet, in your book *Manners From Heaven* you talk to the readers about ways to get along in our society using good manners.

QC: Yes, especially in the American sense. You see the English have etiquette. That's a process of exclusion. We invite you to dinner hoping that you are one of us, and then it transpires you ate your artichoke with the wrong fork and, well nobody invites you again, that's for certain. Americans don't bother with any of that as far as I know. They want you to feel at home. The American host is one who feels that nothing you can do is wrong, and that is what makes my life, at any rate, so much easier.

SS: Have you found that manners have helped you get by in your life since in so many ways you are different from what mainstream society is used to?

QC: Yes, that's right. You try to compensate for anything which other people may have to put up with by being nice about everything else.

SS: How does the movie *The Naked Civil Servant*—the biography of your life from the early 1900s through the 1960s—differ from the new documentary of your life *Resident Alien*? What period does it cover and how does it focus differently from the earlier film?

QC: Well, it is different in that it isn't the story of my life. It's only about me walking about the streets of Manhattan meeting people, having a meal with them, talking to them and saying what I think. So it doesn't refer to some other time, but instead

refers—at worst—to yesterday, not to the years gone by. And it is not all a favorable view of me. For instance it brings out the fact that I do repeat myself, which of course nearly everybody my age does. You actually see this in the movie, you see me saying the same thing three or four times one after the other to different people. And there is a man who says that I have become a court jester, a clown, and so people do express their opinions.

SS: Do you feel that is true?

QC: In a way, yes. But he adds the words that I must be a very unhappy man. Well, I would be unhappy if I had made myself a court jester and abandoned what I really think in order to do it, which you have to do at times but which you don't want to do often. I am by nature a court jester. I have only to present myself to the world as I am and already they find this funny. I don't think they shouldn't find it funny, I'm glad they find it funny. And indeed there is a tiny moment in *Resident Alien* in which a man says to me on the street, "You are an actor," and I explain that I go on the stage but I don't act. But before I've said half a sentence he's said, "British, say no more!" and this is already funny to him.

SS: So you agree then that perhaps the way that you present yourself amuses people at times and is entertaining, and yet it's also an expression of who you really are rather than an act?

QC: That's right, it is the way I am. I try to appear to the world as I feel I am, but I think I am now somebody living a quiet life and the only thing that strikes people as odd is that I am of no particular gender.

SS: And where you differ with the person in the film who said that he felt that you must be an unhappy person, you don't see it as that? You are not unhappy?

QC: I don't see it as having thrown something away in order to ingratiate myself with the world.

SS: That is an interesting point. In the film *Paris Is Burning*, many of those conflicting concepts are presented. There are people doing drag and performing in the balls as a way of feeling better about themselves, and yet in a way that more mainstream society may think as sad or even pathetic. I'm not sure that the participants feel that way, but I wonder what you thought of the film?

QC: Yes, I did write a review of that for the *New York Times* and everyone was in a blind rage about it. I was staggered by their reaction.

SS: About your review?

QC: About my review because I said—which was what I thought Miss Livingston was telling me—that it is hilarious on the surface but fundamentally tragic, because it is a parade of not merely unfulfilled but unfulfillable dreams. Those men will never actually be women, the young man who walked up and down in a suit carrying a briefcase will never really work on Wall Street. They are just living out their dreams, which they are fully entitled to do, but it is in some ways sad.

SS: Do you think it is sad if they really want to become women or executives or whatever but may not be able to, or sad because they aren't really trying to and are merely living in a fantasy world?

QC: I think if they were all in the business of fulfilling themselves, they probably wouldn't be there. They would be working at it, somehow, although God knows how. It's an escape. They have to be themselves most of their lives, which they are not wholly content with, and then at the balls they can play a role much like when you are a child and you play "Today I am a handsome prince." They are fully entitled to do that but somehow to me it is also sad.

SS: Do you find that in your own life, now that you have been living in New York for ten years, that you are more comfortable than you were in England? Are you able to explore more things, do things that you weren't able to do there?

QC: Although there are disadvantages to living in New York, such as that the summer is too hot, the winter is too cold, and everything is more expensive, I find that I am able to live more easily, more effortlessly here. Although people keep saying, "Oh, you must love the bustle of New York," to me it

is a leisurely city. I sit around much of the time in diners and cafes and only once, many years ago, did a waiter come and say, "Well, will there be anything else?" and you know then one must go. Other than that I just sit around.

SS: Are there things that you would like to do that you haven't in your life?

QC: No. Someone did ask me that some years ago and I said no, and then I corrected myself and said I had never been in a technicolor, wide-screen first feature. And then the day came when I was in Mr. Sting's movie *The Bride* and it was the most uncomfortable experience of my entire life, so now I am cured of wanting to be a movie star.

SS: So there is no great unfulfilled thing that you would like to do, places to go, people to meet....

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big cities.

QC: Well really no, because my life is lived less out there than it is in here. Although I have been to so many places since I came to live here—I never left England until I was 67—now I have been to almost everywhere in the world where what I say could be understood. And I have enjoyed it and people have been very kind, but fundamentally my life would not be any different if I went to Hong Kong and Zurich and came back, because I go to places to be seen rather to see.

Although I like to meet everybody, this business of being starstruck, I just don't understand. I ask people how they think it's going to work when they say things like, "Oh, I would love to meet Marlene Dietrich!" I tell them that if she came into the room and she was here you could say, "Oh, Miss Dietrich I have seen every one of your movies and I loved every frame of them," and she would say, "Thank you." And that is all you would get. You have got to live next door before she would ever tell you how she came to be Marlene Dietrich. But that makes them impatient, they don't care, they just want to meet her. If I had been on an airplane, as I was to get here, and I had sat next to Elizabeth Taylor, I would tell everybody. But I would know that that just happened by chance and that's all it was.

SS: You said that you live your life more "in here" than "out there." How do you spend your time?

QC: I watch television if I can find programs which present you with a story. I try not to see real people on television: no panels, no quizzes, no interviews, no games, and very seldom the news. But the really good cops and robbers shows are just so well done because they have only an hour to tell you a whole story. Those I really like.

I read the books people send me to review and then I read them really carefully. Sometimes, of course, in America publishers send you books, not to review but with a covering letter which says they are sure you will enjoy this book and hope you will be

willing to share your enthusiasm with them. That means, "Say something nice we can put on the back of the first edition," which I am perfectly willing to do. So those are the books I read, and I see a movie a month to review it, and I spend a lot of time with people.

The other day a man asked me where I had just been, and I said I was having dinner with two women. And it transpired that I had no idea who they were, that I had just met them, and the man said, "Well why did you have dinner with them if you didn't know them?" I don't understand that question. But then I am like the serpent which said to Eve, "I never say why, I only say why not," and I do the same.

SS: Do you plan to write any more books?

QC: Well, we now think that we might collect all my journals from the *New York Native*, of which there are a thousand words a week, and that is already more than 70,000 words! I might write a preface explaining how time passes and put this in book form like my book *How To Go To The Movies*, which is out here and in England. And it pays royalties, which is the first time any book I have written has paid royalties except the paperback of *The Naked Civil Servant*, and that took about 12 years.

SS: I am an adult advisor with the Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth and am often in a position of being asked for advice or support. Do you have any advice or words of wisdom for a young person today who may be gay or bisexual, or who may be dealing with a crossgender orientation?

QC: I think my suggestion would be to not regard the differences between the genders as being as great as everybody else thinks they are. You don't have to be excessively masculine or excruciatingly feminine, you can just be a person. And that avoids all this gesture and all this shrillness, which I do find worrying.

A woman once wrote to Mr. Dodgson, the man who called himself Lewis Carroll, and said that she was saddened by the fact that she never had the powers of argument to convince her atheist friends of the value of Christianity. And he wrote back to her and said that it doesn't matter if she had the doctrine down pat, what matters is that they see who she is as a Christian. And I think that is really it. If you want to gain any ground because you are whatever, you only have to live your life so that after awhile they think, "Well, he's not so bad. I was terrified when I first met him, but I got used to him."

SS: A variation on "the personal is political."

QC: Yes, that's what I think. You can't fight for integration, you can only wait. If you fight for integration, you will find yourself in the same position as the person who says to their spouse, "Do you really love me?" And the answer to this is "All right, I love you, now shut up!" In which case do you really feel any better?

SS: You mentioned earlier that the difference between the genders is really less pronounced than many people believe. Did you go through your own exploration of your gender presentation before arriving at a role that was comfortable for you?

QC: Yes, that's right, you do it bit by bit. When you are young, one day you try to conceal your sin and then the next day you try to brazen it out, and you go back and forth. And then as time goes on you try to decide what you really want and how to present that. If you decide that what you really are is an effeminate homosexual, everything you do doesn't have to be effeminate. Even a woman is not totally feminine.

SS: In fact, many women are what society would say is masculine.

QC: That's right, they are masculine in a number of ways. They take command, they make decisions, they are logical.

SS: So you wouldn't label behavior as masculine or feminine but just expressions of human nature?

QC: That's right, exactly. I don't like these lists of what is suitable. I think, and the world seems now to accept largely, that people are the way they are regardless of sex.

SS: You are not someone then, who advocates labeling individuals?

QC: The fewer labels the better.

SS: You seem to be an extremely calm individual. Are there things that irritate you or make you angry?

QC: I expect I get irritated by things from time to time, but no, nothing worries me very much. When you are young, if people don't like you, it is the end of the world. But I think most people who get to my age arrive at a middle path, and they are both more able to communicate with the world and are also more distant from it.

SS: You are not caught up in the politics, the wars, the issues of the day.

QC: No, not really.

SS: Were you ever, when you were younger?

QC: I was never caught up in world affairs, I simply don't have the grasp. Whether America should have fought Iraq, I don't know what they should have done. I'm not angry about it, I'm not delighted with it, I just accept that it is so.

SS: We talked about anger, how about love? Are there people in your life about whom you care very much?

QC: I suppose not. Instead of disposing my capacity for affection vertically all on some one person or family of people, I spread it out over the world. I really do like almost everybody. They have really to demonstrate that they are bent on not being liked by me, and then I think, "Oh, well, I really can't do anything more about that." But in general I really like people.

SS: Do you have any family with whom you are in touch?

QC: My brothers and my sister are dead because I was the youngest, but they had children, my nieces. My sister had a daughter, and one of my brothers had two daughters. One of them came to live in New Jersey with her daughter, who after a while married an American. So now I have three nieces, six great-nephews or -nieces, and one of them has a young child so now I have a great-great-nephew.

SS: Are you in touch with any of them? Do you go to family reunions? Are you comfortable with each other as a family?

QC: Oh, yes, when they come to New York I make arrangements to see them, and we write to each other when there is something to say. Their attitude toward my notoriety is quite different than my sisters' and my brothers' were. They were embarrassed, but my nieces regard this whole thing as a joke. I went to a party given by my English niece and when I arrived she said to the assembled guests, "This, believe it or not, is my uncle!" And that's fine with me.

SS: At this point in your life, you are 82 now, is there anything you would like to be remembered by or known for?

QC: I don't think so. I have often been asked how I would like to be remembered or even what I would like to have written on my tombstone, and I have always said, and mean, that it doesn't matter. I have said to people who ask that question that they think they will look down from a cloud and count the people at their funeral. But I have news for them: they won't because they will be dead! So, I don't really mind what's written on my tombstone. Someone wrote to me the other day that Artie Shaw, the bandleader, wants to have written on his tombstone, "Go away!"

SS: I assume then, that you don't believe in an afterlife?

QC: I don't believe in an afterlife. I can't afford to believe in an afterlife. No one ever seems to be distressed by the idea of having to live forever ... and ever....

SS: You think this life is quite enough?

QC: This life is quite enough. You could say more, one of the nicest things about life is that it will end.

SS: Despite it all however, do you think you have had a good life?

QC: I have had a much easier life at the end of my life than I did at the beginning. In a way my life is the reverse of other people's. Most people look back and say, "Oh, I was much happier when I was a child. Now nobody loves me," or whatever it is. I had a miserable childhood, mostly my own fault, but I did. And as the years have gone by I have become more able to cope with my limited situation, and now I don't see any way in which my life could be better. □

Film

Continued from backpage

explore this material. Erika (Erika Nagy) is a highly sought after Manhattan model who hides from the world the scars left on her back from childhood surgery and the fact that she has had an ileostomy, necessitating her use of a colostomy bag. Erika feels that her "damaged" body is what allows her to project the "beauty" that her modeling assignments call for. Halfway through the film, Erika breaks up with her abusive boyfriend Carl (Michael Davenport) and falls in love with Lee (Stephen Gatta), a gay man who is, incidentally, lovers with her doctor.

Director Greytak clearly is unafraid to approach serious, even shocking, subject matter. And *Hearing Voices* has some amazing things in it. Erika's relationship with her body and her career is probed with depth and insight, and we can almost feel the alternating waves of courage and self-loathing that she goes through at home, while being examined by medical students, and on the job. But her relationship with Lee—while provocative on any number of levels—is never fully explained.

There is much talk about the fact that Lee's being gay does not matter to Erika, but Greytak implies there are other factors involved. Is Erika drawn to this man because he is gentle and not primarily interested in her body? How does she feel about Lee being her doctor's lover, especially since we know she has been arguing with him about having a new operation? And does Lee turn to Erika as some response to AIDS? Does he see in her daily existence some sign of courage to which he is drawn? All of these options seem to be possibilities, but Greytak does no more than hint at them. There are some potent scenes between Erika and Lee—one love-making scene in which Lee remains very still and Erika ravishes his body is particularly powerful—but ultimately the film promises more than it delivers. Still, *Hearing Voices* holds your interest and is worth seeing if you are interested in feminist films as well as the representations of women and gay men in film.

The International Women Filmmakers Series at the Brattle, a one-of-its kind presentation in Boston, will screen Ulrike Ottinger's great masterpiece *Johanna D'Arc of Mongolia*, Tues., Oct. 15, and the premiere of Helke Sander's *The Germans and Their Men*, Oct. 22. □

Elections

Continued from page 3

within state government, does not automatically guarantee support from the local gay and lesbian community. On Sept. 25, Noble failed to receive the endorsement of the Cambridge Lavender Alliance, a progressive community organization based in the city she hopes to serve.

Arthur Lipkin, a lifelong resident of Cambridge and member of the Lavender Alliance, told GCN that the primary consideration in not endorsing Noble was her lack of experience in Cambridge gay community politics.

The Alliance's Hyde concurred. "Elaine Noble appeared at the Aug. 21 Alliance meeting a month before we were to announce our endorsements," said Hyde. "It was her first meeting — she had never been involved in any of the Cambridge gay community's highly publicized activities before. When we asked Elaine where she had been and what done in her past 10 years in Cambridge, she really didn't have an answer."

Kevin Jennings, another member of the Lavender Alliance, expressed dismay over the Alliance being unable to endorse the only openly gay candidate for city council. "It was a very frustrating situation because I wanted to support the openly gay candidate," he said. "But in this situation our common sexual orientation was not enough to warrant my support of her. It is more important to have a progressive candidate that knows the city than an openly lesbian one who does not."

Jennings said that he was confused by Noble's failure to seek endorsements from other progressive groups and lack of familiarity with the Cambridge City Council. "She had no Cambridge-specific issues she wanted to address," said Jennings. "If she had not been a lesbian, I could not find even one reason that we would even think of considering her."

Hyde pointed out that historically, it is not uncommon for gay and lesbian candidates to fail to be endorsed by community-based gay and lesbian organizations. She cited last year's campaign for Massachusetts state representative, where pro-gay incumbent Byron Rushing received more support from the gay community than openly gay Republican candidate, Mike Duffy. □

Helms

Continued from page 6

vote will not affect the outcome, since the bill appears to be guaranteed to pass, they can perhaps remove a controversial vote from their record.

"This is a classic example of homophobia, because the establishment [senators] will not rise to the defense of lesbians and gay men under attack," said NGLTF's Vaid. "We have no one in the Senate who is willing to come forth as a pro-gay or pro-arts senator."

Manipulating the rules

Carter of the North Carolina Gay Political Action Agenda, cautioned, "Helms is savvy about how the Senate works. More than any one senator, he comes up with backwards, outmoded and outdated rules and regulations that he uses to get a forum for his own agenda and hold up progressive bills."

One tactic Helms employs is to attach amendments unrelated to the actual bills they amend. For example, the recent NEA amendment was in fact an amendment to an amendment on a Interiors Dept. appropriations bill. "Not only did the bill have nothing to do with NEA funding, but technically, because it was a second degree amendment, no one could really challenge it," said Dan Meyer, who works for the anti-censorship of arts program at People for the American Way. "Senators, especially those who may have wanted the bill to go through for other reasons, let it go through."

Carter charges that Helms has also used his renowned filibuster techniques and detailed knowledge of Senate procedure to stall approval of both the National Hate Crimes Statistics Act and Martin Luther King Day Act for at least three years each. Eventually, she claims, it was only passage of time and persistence of the issue that allowed senators to stand up to Helms and pass the measures.

McCarthyism revisited

King said that Helms' position within the Senate reminds him of that of Sen. Joe McCarthy during the 1950s. "He was perceived as this invincible figure in politics until Maine's Sen. Margaret Chase-Smith took to the floor and finally said, 'Enough's enough,'" said King.

"We are waiting for another Margaret Chase-Smith to stand up to Helms and challenge him on his homophobia." King said that no senator has effectively challenged Helms' bigotry towards gay men and lesbians "since Lowell Weicker left the Senate to become governor of Connecticut."

But Carter challenges the idea that Helms' power within the Senate is necessarily increasing. "This is how Jesse has always worked on any issue within the Senate—this is nothing new," she said. "Gaybaiting has always been Helms' way of ranking people's ire." Carter thinks that indications are that some of Helms' former scare tactics are not as effective as they once were, citing Helms' increasing reliance on amendments as proof he is not the effective bully he once was.

Carter is doubtful that a day will come when someone in the Senate effectively challenges Helms. "He's been in there so fucking long, and seniority has a lot to do with the power you carry in the Senate," she said. "I think time will be the ultimate thing that gets rid of him—eventually he'll drop dead."

Smith believes that someone in the Senate should come forth to challenge Helms. "Just like a school yard bully, the only way to deal with him is to stand up to him."

Vaid partially attributed the lack of senate leadership on gay and lesbian issues as a symptom of the community's invisibility. "We have made a lot of progress, but most of it is with smoke and mirrors," said Vaid. She rejects Jesse Helms' argument that the general populace does not want to see tax dollars spent on gay and lesbian art. "The fact is at least 10 percent of the tax paying population is gay—as a legislative strategy we must start organizing to empower ourselves."

"We certainly aren't at a place where anyone in the Senate would do for us what Helms has done for the right wing," said Vaid. "Clearly, given some of his underhanded tactics, we wouldn't want that."

—filed from Boston

CORRECTION

There was a mechanical printing error on the cover of last week's paper. If this hadn't happened, the cover would have been beautiful. Really. We apologize for offending your aesthetic sensibilities.

Nope, those photos of Philadelphia police and demonstrators accompanying the "Police violence erupts in Philadelphia" story were not take by gay porn star Al Parker, but rather by *Philadelphia Gay News* reporter and photographer Al Patrick. Sorry for the unwarranted titillation.



**No Cover on Thursdays
No Cover on Fridays and
Saturdays until 10:30**

Gay and Lesbian Community Center's
2nd Anniversary is Friday • **September 27**

Women's Alternative League • Lip Sync/Talent
Show **September 28** • 7pm • \$3 Donation

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"Ranch Romance" • **October 6** • 8pm

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Suffolk University
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Tickets: \$12.50
Seniors and Students: \$10.50
For reservations and tickets
call 617-859-9445.

**BENEFIT for
FENWAY COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER**

Special tickets to benefit the
Fenway Community Health Center
will be available for the Friday,
October 4th performance.
Tickets for the performance
and benefit reception are
\$25.00 and can be ordered by
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An evening of dance with choreography by Ruth Bimberg,
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Fenway Community Health Center is again offering
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Tuesdays • 7 - 9 pm • October 8 - November 26

Examine the personal, social, legal, medical, and logistical implications of becoming a gay father. This group combines informative presentations by gay fathers and other speakers with interactive discussion of participants' own thoughts and concerns. The group will be facilitated by Kevin Cranston, a gay father and experienced group leader. Limited to 13, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mail-in Registration Form:

Name/ Address /Phone: _____

Make check payable to Fenway Community Health Center, according to the following scale, and mail with this form to Jenifer Firestone, FCHC, 7 Haviland Street, Boston, 02115.

Your gross annual income	Course fee
over \$35,000	\$325
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\$20,000 - \$25,000	\$170
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Community Health Center
FENWAY

Family and Parenting Services

For further information or to get future Family and Parenting Services notices, call Jenifer Firestone at 267-0900 x 282.

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Join other gay men for a
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designed to help you meet
the men you want to meet and
have the kind of sex you want to have
within your own limits.

Friday, October 18th, 8 - 11 PM
AIDS ACTION Committee
131 Clarendon Street, 4th floor,
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Free admission, but space is limited.
To reserve a space, please call
(617) 437-6200, ext. 499

Popular Myths About AIDS: #10

It's OK to
fuck without a
condom, as long
as I pull out
before
I cum.



**FACT: You have to use a condom
every time you fuck.**

Many people have become infected with
HIV because their partner lost control in
the heat of passion and ejaculated.

And, while the risk to the man on top
may not be as great, there is still the
possibility that he may be infected, too.

**Safer Sex, Testing, and Early Treatment
must still be a part of your life,
and can keep you healthy through the 90s.**

AIDS ACTION Hotline (617) 536-7733. or
HIV Resource Library 4378-6200. ext. 432

This ad paid for by AIDS Action Committee

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PERSONALS

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Replies to *GCN* Boxes should be addressed to *GCN* Box#, *Gay Community News*, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116. This applies to *GCN* Boxes only, not to P.O. Boxes. Mail may be addressed to *GCN* boxes for weeks after the issue in which it appears. Check carefully to be sure you have the correct box number!

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Private mailboxes \$1.39

PHUCK MY PHACE

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Gay man—kind, honest, witty, *out*—looking for same for monogamous relationship. I'm 31 and spend lots of time swimming, reading, writing, going to museums, listening to music—especially Beethoven, Bartók, Coltraine and contemporary experimentalists. I'm a vegetarian, my politics to the left, and I'm active in the gay and lesbian community. To me, the only important part of your ethnicity and religion is that you're proud of them. Idiosyncrasies are highly encouraged. Your response will surely beget mine. *GCN* Box 901.

GBM 30 seeks straight-acting GM 18-35 for friendship or relationship. Race no problem. *GCN* Box 903. (11)

L/COUPLE 39+

living on the North Shore would like to meet new friends for light and easy socializing, informal get togethers, pot luck dinners, etc. Also interested in learning about any local area social groups. No causes, no drugs, just discrete, down to earth, easy going people with a sense of humor. We would like to meet the same. *GCN* Box 968 (12)

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German GM, new in town, seeks real friends for talking, listening, movies, dining, fun and other social events. I am 33,6'1", brown hair and moustache. Call 262-1237

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W/M 34 Brown hair, eyes, 6' 4" 185 lbs, witty, clean, funloving. Seeks correspondence for friendship and companion to fight loneliness of prison. If you are willing to try a longshot, you'll never find a more true friend. No games, empty promises. Just me. Jeff McGann, 052263/1370, 33123 Oil Well Rd., Charlotte Correctional Institution, Punta Gorda Florida 33955. (11)

NEW GIRL IN TOWN

Even though I've been in Boston a year, I still feel like I'm new in town. Body builder type who sometimes wishes she had no politics but can't help being socially aware seeks cute leatherdyke who knows who she is, what she wants and is able to play. *GCN* 009 (12)

DOWN-TO-EARTH MAN SEEKS SAME

Once, I was bored and constantly complained about never meeting men. Now I meet plenty of men, each more screwed up and desperate than the next. I lay in bed at night and pray for some stable guy with a sense of humor and to come and rescue me from my interesting yet psychotic love life. *GCN* Box 1130. (11)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LESBIAN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Multi-racial Cambridge shelter for battered lesbians needs volunteers. Training starts Oct 3. Call 354-2676 by Oct. 2 to register. (11)

WORLD SOCIALISM...no wages, no profits, no buying and selling; free access, sustainable abundance. Want it? You can here it *now*. Send for introductory cassette tape and catalogue. World Socialist Party (US), Tape-GP, Box 405, Boston, MA 02272. (11)

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send a message to congress to overturn the gag rule. Call 1-800-325-6000, ask for Western Union hotline #9888. A letter will be sent to targeted lawmakers in your name and your phone number will be billed \$5.45. Call 1-800-325-6000 and ask for Western Union Hotline #9888. Sponsored by Fund for the Feminist Majority, Arlington, VA. (11)

A WEEKEND WITH OUR BROTHERS

A celebration of ourselves for gay and bisexual men in the Berkshires. Fri p.m. Oct 4 to Sun p.m. Oct. 6. Sliding scale \$75 to \$150. Call Wayne 522-1341 or Tom 923-9440 for info or brochure. (11)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Foundation for Children with AIDS is seeking volunteers to commit to 3 hrs. per month. For more info, please call Loretta at 625-2121.

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M/F needed to share Independent Jamaica Plain household with 2 GM in mid-twenties. Sunny, third floor apt. Newly-renovated, clean, modern, secure. 5 minute walk to green line and #39 bus. Prefer nonsmoker. No cats or dogs. Please be responsible and reasonably tidy. Rent is \$237.00, gas heat. Available Immediately. Call Ed or Andrew 524-7783, leave message.

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Spend long, lazy days by the pool, cool nights by a crackling fire or in our hot tub. With 100 mountain acres, hiking trails, yummy breakfasts, peace & privacy, we're your perfect vacation choice! Golf, tennis, antiques, summer theater nearby. Spectacular fall colors! HIGHLANDS INN, Box 118G, Bethlehem NH 03574. (603) 869-3978. Grace, Innkeeper. (v.19,i.16)

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I NEED A HOME

Fun, responsible lesbian with queer politics seeking an inexpensive group home with fun young bi/lesbo women or gay men. Prefer JP. Prefer veggie. Prefer grass and trees nearby. Please call 429-8752 day/evening.

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Gay and Lesbian

Help Line

617-267-9001 tty/voice

4 - 11 PM Monday - Friday and 6 - 11 PM Sunday

The Gay & Lesbian Helpline is a program of the Fenway Community Health Center

PRISONERS SEEKING FRIENDS

Hi! I'm 5'7", 160 lbs. I have long brown hair and hazel eyes. I'm seeking a *sincere* friendship/relationship with a caring person. No headgames or lies. I value honesty. I like music, sports, sex and good conversation. Can't write prisoners in CA. Please write. David Terry, E-64801, 1-5D-24, P.O. Box W, Repersa, CA., 95671.

Kind, gentle, philanthropist, fundraiser, entrepreneur, electrical contractor, incarcerated for having sex with a minor boy, looking for NAMBLA members and/or boys and/or boy lovers to write. Sorry can't write other inmates. Got your letter R.H. Voss. —Chris Chapman, P.O. Box 1989-Ely, Nev. 89301

GWJM, 32, 6'3", 195. Seeking communication with the real world. I am working on my Master's in Psychology, and hope to be released within the next year. I currently work on the AIDS ward here at the Medical Center, and need to hear from the positive side of gay life again. Sorry, cannot receive mail from other prisoners. Write: Terry Heitman, 05067-045, U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, P.O. Box 4000, Springfield, MO 65808-4000.

You want that hot sexy letter, it's on fire. Please S.A.S.E. for reply. Handwritten only. Thomas R. Barnes, 40851 6-B-1, Route 2 Box 2222, Mineral Point, MO 63660

Dominant, open-minded intelligent person of color, 33 years, desire to correspond "only" with extremely passive gay male for potential relationship and eventual marriage!! Race, age insignificant! Can receive letters from inmates. John Nelson #38140, P.O. Box 1328, Los Lunas, NM 87031

GM, 30 years old, seeking quality friendship/maybe more. Not into head games or freak letters. Sincere and caring individuals. Parole in 3/92, age, race not a factor. George Cahoon, 1-Administration Rd., Bridgewater, MA, 02324

GWM, 5'10", 195 lbs. I have black hair and brown eyes. I really enjoy fellow gay men who like to fuck and suck as well as eating my big hairy asshole out. I can take a lot of meat so I like them the bigger the better (9 inches plus). I myself have 9 big inches of salami and know how to use it. I enjoy rimming as well as sucking a big cock. Won't you help me? Juan J. Amencio 17094-004, 15801 S.W. 137 Ave., Miami, Florida 33177.

Gay top 34, 5'5" Black hair, brown eyes, mustache would like to correspond with someone who knows what it is like to be lonely. Varied interests. Time left in here getting short. J.O. Myers Rt 1, Box 36 Jackson, N.C. 27845

25 y.o. male, blonde hair, blue eyes, 170 lbs, with short clean cut hair wishes to correspond with other males for friendship and possible relationship upon release from prison. Serious and in need of a friend. James E. Manning, P.O. Box 014, Maple, N.C. 27956

"TO ALL THOSE IN AND OUT OF PRISON, WHO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE"

Alexander Berkman,

Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist

Seeking to write to anyone that's interested. From any prisoner that's out of state and/or from anyone that's from the outside world. I'm honest, intelligent, responsible, caring. We can exchange photos if possible. Garrick Daniels 90-A-9428, 354 Hunter St. Ossining, N.Y., 100562-5442

25 year old GWM former model for NOVA and Falcon would like to correspond with those who wish to write for friendship or possibly more. Will answer ALL who write. Write to Ricky A. Esto Z16-810 P.O. Box 5500 Chillicothe OH, 48601

Lonely Bi/M seeking someone special, very open minded, honest, would like to hear from anyone to be friends with and share a relationship. 18 or older. men only. All letters will be answered. Please send photo. I will appreciate a pen pal, for I have no one. Write Percy Ellis, #180-015, Unit 1C, Cell 218, P.O. Box 788, Mansfield, OH, 44901

I am a gay man, age 27, 6'1", 182 pounds dark hair, hazel eyes, very clean and neat, living a lonely life. I am looking for someone who is open and honest. Age and race don't matter. *No head games please.* I will answer all *serious* replies. Clifford Baugh #852509, P.O. Box 41, Michigan City, IN 46360

GWM—26 yrs old. 5'9", 180 lbs. Brown hair/eyes. Seeking friends to write on the outside. Release date is 8/24/92. I play guitar, write songs/poems. Timothy Ray Mancs #6455414, 2500 Westgate, Pendleton, Ore. 97801

I'm looking for someone to build a lasting friendship with or possibly a relationship. Gay or bisexual. Brian Fowler #1155-092327, Hendrey Correction Institute Route 2, Box 13AA, Immokalee, Fla. 33934-9747

Adorable pound puppy seeks adoption. Age, race, size sex etc. no problem. Just honesty and a desire to share joys and pain. Bless me with pic. if possible. Carlos Jarmon, #D76875-1-D4-8, P.O. Box W., Represesa, CA., 95671

My name is Samson Sua. Lutez. I'm Soamoan, Mexican and German. 28 years old, Bisexual man, single. 5'8"—200 lbs. Jet black hair, dark brown eyes. Martial Arts instructor and love weight lifting. Singer, compassionate, understanding, devoted, open minded, down to earth type of man seeking a real friend. Samason Sua. Lutz, D-07908, C3-110, P.O. Box 7500, Crescent City, Calif. 95532-7500

Gay man, athletic in running, basketball, weightlifting. Also open, honest and lonely! I'm looking for a true friendship, maybe more. I'm 6'6", 260 lbs., light brown eyes, dark brown hair, big feet. If you would like to hear more about me, please write. Alfred H. MacNeil, 233144 R-5, Apalachee, Corr. Inst. P.O. Box 600-W, Sneads, FL, 32460

GWM 22 y.o. Doing 4 years in that time I hope to be someone's lover. Don't turn your back on me please. Jim Hinton #C-92314, 1-B2-17, Box W, Represa, CA 95671

I'm Black, 6'4", 210 lbs. I'm looking for a real feminine man who loves a strong determine man, and wants to share a possible relationship. Looks and age not important. Teleowin Girtman, P.O. Box 16, Lovelady TX 75851

Calendar

5 Saturday, Cambridge ♦ Adrienne Rich and others reading at benefit for Bridges magazine. Harvard University, Sanders Theatre \$10 more if you can, less if you can't. 7:30pm. For info 497-4037.

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged! Please specify if event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings, including time, date, place, and a contact person. All listings must be typed. Please note that listings are printed only as space allows; we regret that we cannot print every submission.

Phone numbers listed are in the 617 area code, and cities are in Massachusetts, unless otherwise noted.

28 SATURDAY

Watertown ♦ Lesbian Tennis. Spons. by DOB. 9 a.m. Courts behind Marshall's, Arsenal Mall. 628-1038.

Boston ♦ Workshop: Acting and Scene Study I. Spons. by Triangle Theater Co. Curt Miller. Eight two-hour sessions. \$200. Info: Curt Miller 267-0224.

Cambridge ♦ Women's Center Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 46 Pleasant St. (Central T). 354-8807.

Keene, NH ♦ Third Annual Fall Lesbian Conference. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$10 (no one refused for lack of funds). Wheelchair accessible. Info: SASE to Monadnock Area Womyn, POB 6345, Keene 03431, or (603) 357-5757.

Boston ♦ South End Open Galleries. 9/28 and 9/29. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Starting point, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St. (508) 443-8871.

Hartford, CT ♦ "Artists Against AIDS: An Evening of Culture." Poetry, dance, music, art, auction. 6 p.m. Trinity College, Mather Hall, 300 Summit St. \$20 more or less. To benefit AIDS residencies.

Boston ♦ Sandra Bernhard: "Giving 'Til It Hurts." Live one-woman show. 9/27 and 9/28 at 8 p.m. Berklee Performance Ctr. Tickets \$19.50 and \$25. Info and tickets: 931-2000.

Cambridge ♦ Harvard/Radcliffe Performing Artists' AIDS Coalition Fifth Annual Sondheim Cabaret. 9/26, 9/28, 10/3, and 10/5 and 8:30 p.m.; 9/27 and 10/4 at 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Dunster Hs. Dining Hall (Mem. Drive and Cowperthwaite St.). Proceeds to AIDS Patient Care Unit at Deaconess Hospital. \$10; \$6 students. Info or reservations: Josh Young 266-7754 or Jennifer Giering 493-2202.

29 SUNDAY

Manchester, NH ♦ Walk of Hope '91: NH AIDS Foundation Pledge Walk. 8 to 9:30 a.m., registration. 9:30 a.m., opening ceremonies and aerobic warmup. 10 a.m., walk begins. Noon, live entertainment. Veterans Memorial Park. Info and pledge sheets: NHAf (603) 623-0710.

Gloucester ♦ Bicycling Lesbians Around Boston. Info: Linda (508) 468-6591.

Boston ♦ AMALGM Monthly Men's Meeting. (AMALGM = Assoc. of Mass. Asian L/GM.) Last Sunday each month. The Center, 338 Newbury St., room 202K. Info: 247-2927.

Boston ♦ Dykes Dialogue: "Abusive Relationships." 4 p.m. G/L Comm. Ctr., 338 Newbury St. 247-2927.

Natick ♦ South Middlesex NOW Lesbian Rights Task Force Summer Cookout. 4 p.m. Info and directions: Barbara 653-2509.

30 MONDAY

Dorchester ♦ Women, Inc. Support Group for Women in Recovery Who Are HIV+. Starts 9/30. Info: Magda Trujillo or Christine Caines-Dodson 442-6166.

OCTOBER 1 TUESDAY

Boston ♦ "Six-Week Basic Cooking Class for People with HIV." FCHC, 7 Haviland St. Wheelchair accessible. Week 1 of 6. \$25 for series, or less, based on ability to pay. Register: 267-0900 x287.

Boston ♦ Tefillat Refuat Hanefesh, "Service for the Healing of the Soul." Jewish patients with longterm medical conditions. Temple Israel, Longwood Ave. and Plymouth St. First Tuesday each month. 566-3960.

Framingham ♦ Framingham G/L Youth Group. People 22 and under, meets first and third Tuesdays each month. Civic League Bldg., 214 Concord St. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Info: write P.O. Box 426, S. Framingham, MA 01701.

Boston ♦ Gay Men Considering Parenting. Eight consecutive Tuesday eves., 7 to 9 p.m., 10/1 to 11/19. FCHC, 7 Haviland St. Fees \$125 to \$325. Registration limited to 13; course will be repeated. Info: Jennifer Firestone 267-0900 x282.

Boston ♦ Support group for lesbian and single

women interested or involved in alternative insemination. First Tuesday each month: women not yet inseminating. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Second flr. conf. rm., FCHC, 7 Haviland St. Info: Jennifer Firestone 267-0900.

Boston ♦ Gay Fathers of Greater Boston: "Gay Drag / Leather-Levi / Clone Look: Are We What We Wear?" Discussion. First and third Tuesday each month. Lindemann Center, 25 Stanford St., 2nd fl. 8 to 10 p.m. Info 742-7897.

2 WEDNESDAY

Concord, NH ♦ Lesbian Health Clinic. First Wednesday each month. 5 to 9 p.m. Full gyn svcs. Appt. or more info: Randie (603) 225-2739.

Boston ♦ NAMES Project/Boston General Mtg. First Wednesday each month. 7 p.m. Piemonte Rm., City Hall (Congress St. entrance).

Somerville ♦ B/L/G Rights Activists of Somerville (BLGRAS) Monthly Meeting. First Wednesday each month. 7 p.m. "New Member Drive: Join Us In Our Quest for Political Empowerment." Info: Rich or Patrick 776-6956.

Worcester ♦ Supporters of Worcester Area G/L Youth. Open to g/l/b youth 21 and under. First and third Wednesday each month. United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Rd. 7p.m. Info: (508)755-0005.

3 THURSDAY

Northampton ♦ Valley Gay Alliance. First and third Thursdays each month. Basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30p.m. (413) 527-5310.

Boston ♦ Red Sox Benefit for FCHC. Red Sox vs. Detroit Tigers. Fenway Park. 7:35 p.m. Benefit ticket price \$25. Reception to follow at Tattoo (formerly 1270), 1270 Boylston. 247-CARE.

Boston ♦ Louise Duart, internationally acclaimed comedian, impressionist and star of her own Showtime special. Thurs-Sun., this week and next. Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave. 8pm. \$14.75, \$16.75. For more info 536-0966.

4 FRIDAY

Boston ♦ "Significant Others: Dances for Family, Friends, and Lovers." Benefit for The Fenway Community Health Center. Peter DiMuro. 10/4 and 10/5 at 8 p.m.; 10/6 at 3 p.m. C. Walsh Theater, Suffolk U., 55 Temple St. \$12.50; \$10.50 seniors and students. 859-9445.

Cambridge ♦ L/G/B Swing and Ballroom Dance. 8:15 p.m. to midnight; dance lesson 8:15 to 9 p.m. Smoke and alcohol free. \$5. Old Camb. Baptist Church, Harvard Sq. 629-2219.

Boston ♦ Boston Gay Men's Chorus celebrating their 10th season. Also comedian Linda Moakes and members os Ars Nova. Proceeds to benefit the Center. \$15. For more info 247-2927.

5 SATURDAY

Providence ♦ Teresa Trull Concert following Take Back the Night march. Brown University, Alumni Hall. 8:30pm. \$10 in advance, \$15 at door. For more info (401) 433-0560

Cambridge ♦ Adrienne Rich and others reading at benefit for Bridges magazine. Harvard University, Sanders Theatre. \$10 more if/lessif. 7:30pm. For info 497-4037.

6 SUNDAY

Attleboro ♦ Tiboro Triangles sponsor nature hike and picnic at Blue Hills. Leave from Tiboro Plaza, Rober Toner Blvd, N. Attleboro. 10am. All welcome. For more info call The Center, 247-2927.

Cambridge ♦ Adrienne Rich booksigning. Rare appearance to celebrate her new book. New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire St. Wheelchair accessible. 2:30-4pm. For more info 876-5310.

Boston ♦ LifeSavor: A benefit for Community Servings, Boston's hot delivered meals program for people living with AIDS. Cyclorama Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St. 1pm. \$25 for brunch and Tea Dance, \$7 for Tea Dance only. For more info 330-9630.

7 MONDAY

Boston ♦ "Coming Out in the Workplace". The Committee on Les/Gay/Bi Issues, NASW invites interested social workers and social work students to this discussion. 7pm. For more info and carpooling, Meryl 964-3448.

8 TUESDAY

Boston ♦ "Intro to Boston for Lesbians and Gay Men". Two-hour class describing Boston's



vital les/gay community. \$21. 6-8pm. For info and to register, BCAE, 267-4430.

10 THURSDAY

Chicago ♦ Living in Leather VI. Conference sponsored by National Leather Assoc. 10/10-10/14 For more info, NLA P.O. Box 17463, Seattle WA, (206) 789-8990.

11 FRIDAY

Cambridge ♦ Sarah Schulman, "What Ideals Guide Our Actions?: Les/Gay Survival in the Miserable 90s". Part of Black Rose Lecture series. MIT, rm 54-100. 105 Mass. Ave. For more info 524-1043, 437-9309.

SATURDAYS

Boston ♦ Frontrunners. Meet at Metropolitan Health Club for 2 to 5-mi. run along Charles. Lockers and showers complimentary. 10 a.m. Also: Tues. 12:15 p.m. at MHC; Wed. 6:45 p.m. at Hatch Shell. 282-0013.

Cambridge ♦ Single Mothers' Support Group. Free drop-in group with child care, alternate Saturdays. Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 11am-12:30 p.m. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Pink Flamingos. TV/TS of New England. 4 to 6p.m. 338 Newbury St., 2nd flr. 247-2927.

Boston TV ♦ PrideTime -- Boston G/L TV, with Cynthia Pape. 6:30 p.m. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. Also on Cambridge Cable Channel 19, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, and on other systems; check your listings.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Women's Coffeehouse. Musical entertainment, usually. 8 p.m. Crone's Harvest, 761 Centre St. \$5 suggested donation. 983-9530.

SUNDAYS

Boston ♦ Different Strokes Swim Team. Coached workouts for swimmers of all abilities. 10:15 at Boston City Hosp. swimming pool. Ed 767-0449.

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY) Drop-In Center. St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin. (800) 42BAGLY.

Boston ♦ Work Issues Support Group. 2 to 4 p.m. G/L Comm. Ctr., 338 Newbury St.

Boston ♦ Boston Strikers Soccer Club. Weekly novice and club scrimmages. All levels. 3 p.m. Info: Erik 423-0929 or Jeff 876-7612.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Sports. Magazine Field, Memorial Dr. Spons. by DOB. Softball 4 to 6 p.m.; volleyball 6 p.m. til dark. \$1. Info: Steph 625-9551.

Boston ♦ Western Orthodox Church Mass. Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St. 227-5794.

Provincetown ♦ Christian Healing Service. 5:30 p.m. 96 Bradford St. (P-Town AIDS Support Grp.). Pot luck dinner to follow. (508) 487-3866.

Boston ♦ Metropolitan Community Church Worship/Fellowship. 131 Cambridge St. (near Gov't Ctr.). 7 p.m. Info: Rev. Tanis 437-0420.

Boston ♦ Narcotics Anonymous. L/GM. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. 247-2927.

Boston ♦ The Gay Dating Show, WUNR 1600AM. 10:30pm-2:30 a.m.

MONDAYS

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 12:25 p.m. 262-3456.

Boston ♦ Monday Night Dinners for PWA's and Friends: about 100 people meeting every Monday at AAC for dinner. No reservations required. 6 p.m. AAC, 131 Clarendon St. 437-6200.

Dorchester ♦ Alcoholics Anonymous. First Parish Church, Mtg. Hs. Hill. Beginners 6:30, hardhats 8 p.m.

Boston ♦ Boston Bisexual Women's Network Coordinating Comm. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 247-2927.

Worcester ♦ AIDS Project Worcester. A support group for family, friends, concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. (508)755-3773.

Boston ♦ Northern Lights Alternatives Monday Night Rap Group. Talk to others living with HIV. 38 Appleton St. 7:30-9 p.m. Info: Ann O'Rourke 694-0964.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap Group. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 8-10 p.m. 354-8807.

Cable TV ♦ "Between Takes." Often a g/l slant on events. Boston A3 Mondays 9:30 p.m. Cambridge CCTV Thursdays 8:30 p.m. Rhode Island Interconnect A Fridays 8:30 p.m. Other

areas: check listings.

TUESDAYS

Providence, RI ♦ ACT UP/Rhode Island. Call for meeting place (401) 461-4191.

Gloucester ♦ Healing Circle / Positively Clean and Sober. Healing circle 6:30 to 8 p.m., open to anyone facing chronic or life-threatening illness. Pos. C&S 8 to 9 p.m., for people living with HIV and dealing with subst. abuse issues. N. Shore AIDS Project, 19 Pleasant St. (508) 283-0101.

Boston ♦ ACT UP/Boston. The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7 p.m. 49-ACTUP.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. 354-8807.

Medford Radio ♦ "We the People" -- with feminist Sheila Parks. WMFO 91.5FM. 7-9a.m.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ G/B Men and Their Significant Others. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

Boston ♦ L/G Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. No audition necessary. Mass College of Art, Longwood and Brookline Ave. 7:15 p.m. 266-0628.

Boston ♦ The In-Town Group, a leads referral group of Gay, Lesbain, and Gay-friendly companies. Meetings at The Center, 338 Newbury St. 7:30-9:30am. for info Marc, 262-2400.

WEDNESDAYS

Boston ♦ Sales Networks Program for G/L Business Owners and Supporters of the Community. 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St., 2nd flr. Registration required: Marc Spencer 262-2400.

Hyde Park ♦ Women's Pick-Up Hockey. MDC Hyde Park Rink (near Dedham). 8 to 9 a.m. Info: Janice 326-1600 x350.

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY). Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6p.m.; women and men meet separately 6:45 to 7:30; general meeting 7:30p.m. (800) 42BAGLY.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Al-Anon. Wheelchair accessible. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. 354-8807.

Springfield ♦ Names Project Meeting. New chapter with weekly quilting meetings. All welcome. Frontier. 19 Pearl St. 7 to 10 p.m. (413)788-7459

Worcester ♦ Supporters of Worcester Area G/L Youth (SWAGLY). Social support grp. for youths 22 and under. 7 to 9 p.m. United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Road. 7 to 9 p.m. (508) 755-0005.

Bridgewater ♦ S. Shore G/L Alliance. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Bridgewater Ctr. Primarily a social group of age 25+, but all welcome. Info: Glen 293-5183 or Dave 294-0367.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ who are in Substance Abuse Recovery. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7:30 to 9 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

THURSDAYS

Boston ♦ Boston Area Rape Crisis Center drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Boston ♦ Names Project Quilting Bee -- for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Sewing supplies and support provided. Boston Living Ctr., 140 Clarendon St. 7th flr. 7 to 9 p.m. Info 451-9003.

Cambridge ♦ Drop In at DOB Coffee Night. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

Portsmouth, NH ♦ Out and About. A lesbian social and support group. Info: Keryn (603) 749-5852.

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 7:30 p.m. 262-3456.

Provincetown ♦ Positive PWA Coalition Weekly Rap Session. 7:30. 155 Bradford St. Peer led. (508) 487-3998.

Boston ♦ The Group. Discussion and social hour. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 734-2076.

Boston ♦ L/G Ice Hockey Practices and Intersquad Scrimmages. All levels. 9 p.m. Grt Bos. rink. Info: John 350-6063, Al 522-1408.

FRIDAYS

Watertown ♦ GLOW: G/L of Watertown. 395-4664.

Boston ♦ GCN Friday Night Stuffing Party. Come stuff the paper, eat pizza, and make new friends. GCN, 62 Berkeley St. 5 p.m. 426-4469.

Boston ♦ Friday Night At The Movies. Boston Living Center. 140 Clarendon St. Free. 7 p.m.

Hindsights

Five Feminist Minutes

Sixteen short films by women directors. At the Brattle Theater, Cambridge, Oct. 1. Info: 876-6837.

Hearing Voices

Directed by Sharon Greytak. With Erika Nagy, Stephen Gatta. At the Brattle Theater, Cambridge. Info: 876-6837.

Reviewed by Michael Bronski

In 1989, the Woman's Unit at Montreal's National Film Board Studio D celebrated its fifteenth anniversary by funding 16 women filmmakers to direct five-minute films about "whatever was on their mind." The result is a two-hour feature—a mini-feminist film fest—which, although it has its slow moments, is both exciting and thought-provoking.

The idea of bringing together 16 directors without an overall plan or scope might have been disastrous; there was no guarantee that all of the women would not make films on the same subject or with similar styles or tempos. But *Five Feminist Minutes* is not only surprisingly varied in theme and genre—even for a random selection—but contains a very high percentage of fine work. A pleasant treat, since short film anthologies are notorious for their uneven quality.

With no consistent theme running through the program—except, perhaps, the limitlessness of feminist imagination—*Five Feminist Minutes* runs the gamut from high-musical-sex-comedy to introspective memory piece; from socially conscious rap video to deeply moving, simple, first-person narration. For anyone who missed its Boston premiere at this year's Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, you can catch "We're Talking Vulva" in *Five Feminist Films*. Directed by Shawna Sempsey and Tracy Trager (members of the famed Winnipeg Film Group), "We're Talking Vulva" is a recreation/parody of an MTV rap video in which the lead singer is a life-sized, dancing, singing vulva. Filled with health tips and political pointers (this vulva works on a

Feminist film fiesta

A one-of-a-kind series kicks off at the Brattle



We're Talking Vulva

construction site and plays in a rock band), "We're Talking Vulva" is a near perfect appropriation of pop culture to political ends. Swift, funny and pointedly clever, "We're Talking Vulva" "We're Talking Vulva" is a model of wit and inventiveness.

Alison Burns' "Let's Rap" also uses pop music, but to slightly different ends. Burns has filmed 13 Canadian women rappers, of different ages and races, speaking their minds. The raps run from funny to serious, from ecstatic to angry and give "Let's Rap" a cumulative feeling of boundless energy. Less mocking of the rap form than "We're Talking Vulva," "Let's Rap" captures more completely the varied uses of combining music and politics. "Prowling by Night," directed by Gwendolyn—a stripper and part-time prostitute—is a startling on-the-street document about the harassment faced by sex-workers as they attempt to do safe-sex education. The film was made with the participation of 21 prostitutes in Toronto and is amazing in its ability to bring its anger and empathy together in a clear vision.

Perhaps the most startling film in the collection is Ann Marie Flemming's "New Shoes." Here, Gaye, a woman in her thirties sits at a kitchen table, telling the filmmaker of her first romance. Flemming has intercut this simple yet disturbing narrative with hackneyed images of fairy tales and happily ever after images, and the effect is devastating. Both highly comic and shocking, "New Shoes" deals with sexual obsession, violence against women, romantic love, consumerism and a whole host of other issues. *Five Feminist Minutes* is a real find, both as an overview of what Canadian women artists are doing and as an example of some of the best filmmaking today.

...

Hearing Voices is an independently produced first feature by Sharon Greytak. It is highly provocative in its approach to difficult subject matter while at the same time disappointing in its failure to fully

Continued on page 10

SARAH SCHULMAN

reads from her new novel Empathy



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